

Weekly North Carolina Standard.

WEEKLY, \$4 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING.

SEMI-WEEKLY, \$4 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME XVII.

CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18, 1850.

NUMBER 846.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD
IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY BY
WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY. Two dollars per annum, in advance, or within the first month; Four dollars and fifty cents, if payment be delayed six months; and Five Dollars, if not paid within six months from the time of subscribing.

TERMS OF THE SEMI-WEEKLY. Four dollars per annum, in advance, or within the first month; Four dollars and fifty cents, if payment be delayed six months; and Five Dollars, if not paid within six months from the time of subscribing.

THE ABOVE RULES WILL BE INEXORABLY ADHERED TO. ADVERTISEMENTS NOT EXCEEDING FIFTEEN LINES WILL BE INSERTED ONE TIME FOR ONE DOLLAR, AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT INSERTION; THOSE OF GREATER LENGTH IN PROPORTION. COURT ORDERS AND JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE CHARGED 25 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE ABOVE RATES. A REASONABLE REDUCTION WILL BE MADE TO ADVERTISERS WHO ADVISE BY THE YEAR. ADVERTISEMENTS INSERTED IN THE SEMI-WEEKLY STANDARD, WILL ALSO APPEAR IN THE WEEKLY PAPER, FREE OF CHARGE.

Subscribers, and others, who may wish to send money to the Editor, can do so at all times, by Mail and at his risk. Receipts for all sums will be promptly transmitted. Letters to the Editor must come free of postage.

THE WEEKLY STANDARD.

The Constitution and the Union of the States
"They must be preserved."

RALEIGH:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1850.

THE LEGISLATURE.

We devote the greater portion of our space to-day, to the Speech of Mr. Shepard and the proceedings of the two Houses on Tuesday last. The length of these proceedings has prevented us from bringing them up to Thursday evening, but we shall endeavor to make an "even start" in our next issue. We shall state briefly, however, the substance of what was done on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Tuesday the Resolutions of Mr. Bridges, of Franklin, came up for consideration as the special order; and the House was at once launched upon the sea of discussion. On Wednesday the discussion was continued, and on Thursday, at about half past two o'clock, the House came to a vote on the indefinite postponement of the Resolutions, having, on Tuesday, refused to lay them on the table. The reader will find these Resolutions in Tuesday's proceedings in to-day's paper.

The following is the vote by which, on Thursday, on motion of Mr. McLean, the Resolutions of Mr. Bridges were indefinitely postponed. Those who voted to postpone indefinitely, are

Messrs. Adams, Ames, Avery, D. A. Barnes, Blow, Boggs, A. H. Caldwell, D. F. Caldwell, Campbell, Cherry, Clanton, Cokerham, Davidson, Douthett, Drake, Dunlap, Durham, Eaton, Erwin, Farmer, Fleming, Flynn, Ford, Ioville, A. G. Foster, A. M. Foster, Gordon, Harrison, G. W. Hayes, John Hayes, John H. Hill, William Hill, Jenkins, Jones, Kallum, Kelly, A. J. Leach, J. M. Leach, Locke, Love, Marshall, Maulsby, McKay, McLean, McMillan, Montgomery, Newsom, "Arham, Patterson, Pegram, Pigott, Poole, Lowers, Rayner, Rollins, Ruffin, Russell, L. B. Sanders, R. M. Saunders, Saunders, Scott, Sharp, Sheeh, Shinnick, Siler, Simmons, Sloan, Steele, Stevenson, Stubbs, Thornburgh, Thornton, Tripp, Walton, Waugh, Webb, Wiggins, Wiley, B. F. Williams, and Winston—80.

Those who voted against postponing are,

Messrs. Barco, Joshua Barnes, Bond, Boykin, Brazier, Bridges, Brogden, Cotton, Dickinson, Eare, Hacking, Herring, Samuel P. Hill, Jarvis, Johnston, Martin, Matlis, McDowell, McCleese, Neill, McNeill, Mizell, S. J. Person, T. J. Person, Pope, Rankin, Reinhardt, Sherill, Sherard, Stone, Sutton, Swanner, Taylor, Thigpen, J. J. Williams, Wilson, and Winston—36.

The House was addressed, in the course of the discussion, by Messrs. Jones, Leach, of Davidson, Bridges, Stevenson, Mizell, Samuel J. Person, Saunders, of Wake, Martin, Brogden, Sherard, Cotton, Cherry, Winston, Bond, Wilson, Pope, Drake, Erwin, Fleming, and Taylor. This discussion excited a fine display of talent, and excited a very general interest. The lobbies and gallery were crowded with auditors of both sexes while it was going on. We hope the gentlemen who participated in it will write out their remarks for publication. Our columns are open to them.

On Tuesday, Gen. Saunders submitted to the House of Commons the majority report of the Committee on Negro Slavery. Messrs. Rayner and Hill, of Caswell, also submitted Resolutions on the same subject, which will be found, together with the Report of the majority, in Tuesday's proceedings.

On Wednesday, Mr. Avery submitted in the Commons, and Mr. Clark in the Senate, the minority Report of the Committee, affirming the right of secession. These Reports and Resolutions were ordered to be printed, and the whole question will come up for consideration and discussion on Monday or Tuesday next. We shall publish the minority Report in our next.

No debate of general interest has yet taken place in the Senate. That body is proceeding quietly with its business, which it despatches with equal decorum and dignity.

We hope the two Houses will act at the earliest practicable period on the Slavery question. The eyes of the Union are now on North Carolina; and the people of the State demand that their voice be expressed in unmistakable tones on this absorbing question. Action is the word!

The Washington Republic, the National Intelligencer, and the Washington Union all denounce the unconstitutional action of Vermont in relation to the fugitive-slave law, in the severest terms; and it is stated that the members of Congress at Washington from that State, strongly disapprove her action in this respect. It remains to be seen whether her Legislature will repeal the law.

WHITE AND BLACK—PROPORTION. The census of Marengo county, Alabama, shows a total population of 27,700, to wit: 7,117 whites, 20,544 slaves, and 39 free negroes. The increase of white inhabitants since 1814 is only TEN, while the increase of slaves is 3,210.

The Hon. James M. Mason—author of the fugitive slave law—has been almost unanimously re-elected to the Senate for six years from the State of Virginia.

No telegraphic news to-day of any importance. See our Washington Correspondent.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on Monday last, no business of importance was transacted.

In the House on the same day, during the debate on the proposition to refer the President's Message to the several standing committees, Mr. Giddings took occasion to denounce the fugitive-slave law in the bitterest terms. He declared the free States would resist it to the death.

Mr. McClernand, of Illinois, briefly replied, denouncing the sentiments of Giddings as treasonable and infamous.

In the Senate, on Tuesday last, Mr. Foote of Mississippi, and Mr. Downs of Louisiana, appeared and took their seats. No business of importance on hand.

In the House, on the same day, Mr. Bowlin presented the credentials of William S. Messervy, a Delegate elect from New Mexico, which, after some explanation from Mr. Bowlin, were referred to the Committee on Territories. On motion of Mr. Wentworth, the House then went into Committee of the Whole, with a view to take up the river and harbor bill; but after going into Committee, the House refused to take up the bill.

Thus far Congress has transacted no business of general interest. The Committees have, however, been announced, and the two Houses will soon go to work. No motion has yet been made to repeal or alter the fugitive-slave law, but this matter will doubtless come up at an early period. The Free-soilers and "agitators" will not permit the law to stand undisturbed. They will "agitate" as of old, and repeat it, if they can. Let the sovereign States of the South speak out. Their voice, if uttered now, may check this spirit of aggression and save the Union.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, December 10, 1850.

Mr. Bynum, from the select Committee to which was referred the engrossed resolution providing for certain changes in the Hall of the House of Commons, and making appropriations therefor, reported the same with the following amendment, to-wit: That the Senate Chamber be furnished in a similar manner to the House of Commons, and that the sum of \$800 be appropriated for that purpose.

Mr. Cameron presented the petition of Barnabas Thomas and Elizabeth Thomas, of Cumberland, relating to a County land claim. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Cameron, Resolved, That the Military Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the establishment of a Military Scientific Institution in this State, under the patronage of the State.

Mr. Washington introduced a bill to incorporate Newbern and Central Rail Road Company. Read first time, passed and referred.

Mr. Grist, a bill to amend the act of incorporation of the town of Washington. Referred.

Mr. Washington, a bill to re-charter the Merchant's Bank of Newbern. Read first time, passed and referred.

Mr. Woodfin introduced the following resolution: "Be it Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina: That it is the true policy of the State to encourage the extension of the North Carolina Rail Road, west to Knoxville, Tennessee, and east to Goldsboro' to Newbern or Beaufort; and as a means of securing this improvement for the benefit of the State, Charters ought to be granted to Companies to take the respective portions of said road on the terms of the Charter heretofore granted to the North Carolina Rail Road. Read and made special order of the day for Tuesday next.

Mr. Woodfin reported the following resolutions as a substitute for those referred to the Committee on Negro Slavery.

The bills to incorporate the Greenville and Raleigh Plank Road Company, and the Fayetteville and Charlotte Plank Road Company, passed their third readings and were ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Gimer introduced a bill to incorporate a Bank in the town of Newbern. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Clarke, the order making the resolutions on Slavery the special order of the day for Tuesday next, was reconsidered, and made the special order of the day for Monday next.

On motion of Mr. Bynum, the bill providing for Geological and Agricultural survey of the State, was made the special order of the day for Friday next.

On motion of Mr. Berry, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Stowe presented the memorial of Benjamin Smith, a justice of the Peace in Gaston county; Mr. Barco, that of W. W. Sanderlin, of Camden; and Mr. Winston, that of Jones Cook of Franklin; all of which were accepted.

Mr. Love offered a memorial from citizens of the counties of Haywood and Macon, praying the creation of a new county to be called Jackson, out of portions of the two counties named; referred to the committee on the subject.

Mr. Johnston presented the report of the Adjutant General, which was sent to the Senate with a proposition to print.

Mr. Erwin introduced the following resolution, which was read the first time:

"Be it Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, That it is the true policy of this State to extend the North Carolina Rail Road west from Salisbury to the Tennessee line, and east from Goldsboro' to Newbern or Beaufort; and that charters for this purpose should be granted to Companies on the same terms as those heretofore granted to the North Carolina Rail Road Company."

Mr. Eaton a bill for the more effectual prosecution of accessories before the fact to felonies; referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Love a bill to establish the county of Jackson; referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Tripp a bill to submit the question of "penitentiary" or "no penitentiary" to the people at the next election for members of Congress.

Mr. Stevenson presented a minority report from the committee on amendments to the Constitution, in favor of the election of Judges by the people, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Cherry, the committee on Education were instructed to inquire into the expediency of diverting escheated property from the University to the fund of the Literary Board for the benefit of Common Schools.

On motion of Mr. Powers, the committee on amendments to the Constitution were instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the Constitution so as to give the County Courts authority to levy a tax of ten dollars on all free negroes under fifty years of age, to be appropriated to the removal of the free negroes from the State.

Mr. Powers introduced a bill to amend the law concerning slaves and free persons of color, so that free negroes being absent from the State shall not be allowed to return; referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Palmer a bill to repeal the act of 1848-9 amending the act incorporating the Hickory-nut Turnpike Company; which was referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Stubbs a bill to define the meaning of the tenth section of the sixty-seventh chapter of the Revised

Statutes, and to amend the act concerning Swamp lands; referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Flemming introduced the following preamble and resolutions, which on motion of Mr. Walton were laid on the table and ordered to be printed:

"Equality of rights is nature's plan."

And so follow nature the march of Man."

WHEREAS, We, the Representatives of the people of North Carolina, in General Assembly convened, recognize and fully appreciate the necessity which drove our revolutionary fathers to resist the unjust, unequal, and oppressive colonial system under which they suffered from exactions that were unjust, impositions that were oppressive, and laws that were tyrannical in their operation, and calculated to degrade and enslave the subjects upon whom they operated—that we fully endorse their general although it led to revolution, in opposing laws passed by a parliament in which they were neither heard nor represented, and controlled by a power foreign to their interest and inimical to their prosperity: Therefore

Be it Resolved, That a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is obviously necessary to preserve the blessings of Liberty.

2. Resolved, That all political power is vested in and derived from the people only.

3. Resolved, That we recognize in all American citizens, certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and that no man or set of men, are entitled to peculiar or exclusive privileges.

4. Resolved, That it is only when placed upon a basis of equality with his fellow that man begins to feel that he is free; it is then that the soul of independence is enkindled at the intellectual pile, and the heart inflamed with conscious greatness; that man, by contemplating the immortality of his Creator, spurns the tyrant's rod, and casts the fetters that would enslave him at the feet of his oppressor.

5. Resolved, That under government the ours, all white men are and of right to be free, equal, and independent, and that all measures contravening this principle, are both unwise and impolitic in this enlightened age.

6. Resolved, That a majority of the free white people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right to regulate and control their internal government and domestic policy.

7. Resolved, That, whereas the freemen of this State, are all equally bound to bear arms in her common defence, that they should also be equally invested with powers to provide means to sustain said arms, when necessarily employed in such defence.

8. Resolved, That all systems of Government, or laws in which the public voice is not fairly reflected, and by which a minority controls the rights, or wields the destiny of the whole, savors of aristocracy, and tends to despotism, and is alike contrary to the spirit of our Institutions, and the genius of our people.

9. Resolved, As the result of the foregoing political axioms, that every free white man in North Carolina is equally entitled to be heard and represented in said State, and that the Representatives of such freemen, will use all constitutional, lawful and honorable means to produce so desirable a result.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

Mr. Saunders of Wake, on leave, from the joint select committee on the subject of slavery, presented the following preamble and resolutions as a report from the majority of said committee.

WHEREAS, The people of North Carolina have ever cherished a lively and cordial attachment to the Union of the States, and entertain the most sincere desire for its preservation, and whilst, in the opinion of this General Assembly, the slaveholding States have suffered great wrong by some of the measures enacted at the last session of Congress, and the compromise act, yet the measures have become the laws of the land, it is the duty of the State to acquiesce, so long as they shall be adhered to and enforced in good faith; and so long as Congress shall abstain from the adoption of any other measure touching the institution of slavery, calculated either to endanger its security or to destroy the guarantees of the Constitution; be it therefore

1. Resolved, That the fugitive slave act passed by Congress at its last session, is in strict conformity with the provisions and requirements of the Constitution of the United States, and if carried into execution in good faith is calculated to give security to slave property; and any failure on the part of the Federal Executive to enforce or any attempt on the part of the Judiciary to obstruct the same, would not only constitute just cause of complaint on the part of the South, but would be such a gross dereliction of duty as could not fail to weaken those ties which bind together the States of the Union.

2. Resolved, That the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia—the interdiction of the slave trade between the States—the refusal to admit any new State into the Union, because of its recognition of the institution of slavery—the total repeal of the fugitive slave act, or its modification so as essentially to impair its force and efficiency—would, in the opinion of this General Assembly, amount to such a clear, deliberate and palpable breach of good faith and flagrant abuse of power as to demand of the freemen of North Carolina the most determined resistance, and justify them in uniting with the other slaveholding States to uphold and maintain their just and violated rights.

3. Resolved, That whenever all or any one of the acts mentioned in the foregoing resolutions shall have been passed by the Congress of the United States, the Governor of this State be and he is hereby requested to convene the General Assembly at such time as in his wisdom shall seem fit, in order to take into consideration the solemn duties which we owe to ourselves as freemen, and of our then existing relations with the Federal Government.

And whereas, it would be both proper and expedient to restrict all trading intercourse with the non-slaveholding States so long as the slave exists a well grounded apprehension of its non-execution, and as there now exists just grounds for such apprehensions; be it therefore

Resolved, That it is expedient to impose an ad valorem tax upon all articles of merchandise of the growth, manufacture or product of the non-slaveholding States, which shall be brought in to and be offered for sale within this State from and after the first day of August next: Provided, however, the Governor shall be authorized and required, by and with the advice of the Council of State, to suspend the execution of such law until the meeting of the next General Assembly, if it shall satisfactorily appear that the fugitive slave act hath been faithfully executed.

The foregoing resolutions, on motion of Mr. Saunders, were ordered to be printed, and referred to the committee on the subject of Slavery, and made the order of the day for Monday next.

Mr. Saunders, from the same committee, reported back to the House several series of resolutions, with the consideration of which they had been changed, and moved that they be laid on the table, to be taken up on Monday next with the report of the committee. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Rayner wished to state that he did not concur with the report of the majority, nor with the views of the minority. He stood by himself and presented the following resolutions, not as a minority report from the committee, but as an individual member of the House. He gave notice that when the report of the majority of the committee was taken up for consideration he should move to substitute his resolutions therefor. The resolutions were read as follows:

WHEREAS, the continual agitation of the various questions connected with the subject of negro slavery is fraught with the most serious and portentous consequences; and whereas, the people of the slaveholding States, feeling deeply impressed with a sense of what are their rights, and determined to maintain and defend those rights by all constitutional and law-

ful means; and whereas, the Union of these States which was designed by its founders and adopted by the people of the respective States "in order to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, and secure the blessings of liberty to them and to us, their posterity," should be sustained and protected until time and experience have proven it to be utterly incompetent to the answering of these great purposes; and whereas, in case it should become necessary for the slave holding States to resort to a redress of their grievances, growing out of Northern interference with their domestic institutions, that can be more effectually attained by unanimity and concert of action than by local legislation or irresponsible conventions: Therefore

1. Resolved, That the institution of slavery, as it exists in the Southern States, is a subject with which the people of the North have neither the constitutional power nor the moral right to interfere, either directly or indirectly, either by legislative enactment or social organization; and that all such interference should be resisted as an unwarranted assault upon their rights.

2. Resolved, That the territorial lands of the United States, whether purchased by the common treasure, or conquered by the common arms, ought to be free to the common enterprise, and open to the common emigration of all sections alike; that any discrimination by Congress, which shall prescribe the ownership of property acquired or to be acquired in the territory, and demand of the slaveholding States, measures of retaliation as hereinafter suggested.

3. Resolved, That the owners of slaves in the District of Columbia, hold that kind of property under the guaranty of the Constitution, which declares that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law;" and that those who remove slaves from one slaveholding State to another, for the purpose of sale or settlement, are entitled under the Constitution, to all the rights and privileges of slave owners in the States where they may happen to be; that the abolition of slavery in said District of Columbia would further involve a gross breach of faith towards one of the slaveholding States; that such abolition in said District, or such interdiction of the removal of slaves from one slaveholding State to another, would be regarded in the slaveholding States as a blow aimed at slavery in the States; that the passage of either of these measures by Congress could not fail to exert a most injurious influence on the institution of slavery throughout the South, and would authorize and require of the slaveholding States, those retaliatory measures, hereinafter suggested.

4. Resolved, That the series of acts passed at the last session of Congress, constituting what is generally termed "the compromise," viz: The act admitting California as a State—the act establishing a territorial government for Utah—the act for the adjustment of the Texas boundary—and the act establishing the territorial government of New Mexico—the act providing for the surrender of fugitive slaves—and the act abolishing the slave trade in the District of Columbia—having become the law of the land, and obligatory on all sections, States, communities and persons, ought to be obeyed; and the Executive is bound by the most solemn obligation to see that they are enforced, should any resistance be offered to their execution.

5. Resolved, That the people of the slaveholding States, yielded much in some of the measures of that "Compromise" for the sake of conciliation and peace, with scarcely a remuneration benefit in the passage of the act for the surrender of fugitive slaves; that the repeal of said fugitive slave law, would be a manifest breach of faith on the part of Congress to which the people of the South cannot, ought not, and will not acquiesce; and that, in case of such repeal, the retaliatory measures on the part of the slaveholding States, hereinafter suggested, would be authorized and demanded by the occasion.

6. Resolved, That any system of organized opposition to the execution of the said fugitive slave law in the non-slaveholding States, either by legislative enactment, or police regulations, by lawless violence, or by overbearing demonstrations of physical force, the result of which shall be to render this law practically inoperative, will also justify and require of the slaveholding States, those retaliatory measures hereinafter suggested.

7. Resolved, That North Carolina entertains the most sincere and abiding attachment to the Union of these States; that we will maintain and defend the Union, and sustain the constituted authorities of the Government as long as the same can be done consistently with the preservation of our liberties, and the enjoyment of those rights and privileges, which the Union was designed to secure, and the Government to protect; that it behooves the Southern States to acquiesce in the measures of redress not incompatible with the Constitution, before they should contemplate the alternative of disunion; and that if disunion must come, they should so act as to throw the responsibility on those who are disposed wantonly to insult us, and to invade our rights.

8. Resolved, That in case Congress shall hereafter so alter the laws of the last session establishing territorial governments, as to apply to them the principles of the Wilmot Proviso, or should repeal the law providing for the surrender of fugitive slaves, or so change that law as to render it inefficient for the accomplishment of the purposes designed by it, or should pass any law for the abolition of the institution of slavery in the District of Columbia, or interdiction of the removal of slaves from one State to another, then will then be the duty of the slaveholding States to send delegates to be appointed under authority of law to a convention, the business and authority of which convention shall be to devise and recommend to the said slaveholding States respectively such retaliatory measures, not inconsistent with the Constitution, as may be demanded by the exigencies of the occasion, and with a view to obtaining that unanimity and concert of action, without which all attempts at redress will be in vain.

9. Resolved, That it be and hereby is recommended to the respective slaveholding States of the Union, to provide by law for the assembling of their Legislatures, for the purpose of regulating under the authority of law, the appointment of delegates to said Convention in case of such change by Congress of the territorial laws of the last session, or of the repeal or modification of the fugitive slave law as before suggested, or the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, or the interdiction of the removal of slaves from one State to another; and in case of the necessity of holding such convention, each State should be entitled to the same number of delegates as it will be entitled to elect votes for President and Vice President of the United States, and the delegates so taken—the manner of appointing said delegates to be regulated by law in each State as the Legislature thereof may provide—a majority of the delegates appointed to said Convention to constitute a quorum—the manner of voting to be regulated by the Convention itself—and that it shall be the duty of said Convention when assembled, to devise and recommend a series of retaliatory measures, not violating the Constitution of the United States, to the Legislatures of the slaveholding States for their adoption.

10. Resolved, That the following propositions among others, be submitted to the notice of the slaveholding States as proper for the consideration of said Convention, in case its assembling shall be necessary, under either of the contingencies before suggested, viz:

The passage of a law (preceded by an amendment of the State Constitution, when necessary) providing for reducing to a state of slavery, all the free negroes within their respective limits, in case they do not leave the State within a certain prescribed period—and the further permanent provision of disallowing freedom to any colored person within the fourth degree.

The imposing a personal tax, either specific or ad valorem, by the State Legislatures on all persons who sell goods, wares or merchandise, either the manufacture or growth of, or purchased in, a non-slave holding State.

The granting of bounties by the respective States to manufacturing capital and industry, and the exemption of the same from taxation.

The imposition of a *de-crescit* tax of so much per cent, on all monies expended in the non-slaveholding States, whether for purposes of travel or pleasure, the education of youth, and all purchases made in the same, whether in person or by order; and such other retaliatory measures, the details of all of which to be regulated by law, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, as may be deemed a advisable.

11. Resolved, That in case a majority of the slaveholding States, shall, through their respective Legislatures, respond favorably to these propositions, then, in case of any change by Congress of the territorial laws of the last session, which shall apply the principles of the Wilmot Proviso, or of the repeal or modification, so as to render it incompetent for the purposes designed, of the fugitive slave law of the last session, or of such resistance generally to the execution of said fugitive slave law in the non-slaveholding States, as shall render it practically inoperative, or of the abolition of slavery by Congress in the District of Columbia, or of the interdiction of the removal of slaves from one State to another, the Governor of this State be, and he is hereby requested to convene the Legislature of this State by proclamation, for the purpose of providing by law for the appointment of delegates to represent this State in said proposed Convention of the slaveholding States, and of taking such further steps in the premises as may be thought meet and proper for the occasion.

12. Resolved, That whilst we are not to be understood as expressing any opinion in regard to the policy of a tariff for protection, or of the influence of such a system upon the interests of the Southern States, or as to the course which should be pursued by Southern members of Congress upon this subject, did the causes of our complaint not exist, or should they be hereafter removed, yet as the non-slaveholding States are so much more deeply interested in such protection than the slaveholding States can now be, we therefore think that the Senators and Representatives in Congress from the slaveholding States should oppose all increase of duties on foreign importations as well as public opinion in the North shall tolerate fanatics in their resistance or evasion of the fugitive slave law, and the interference by agitators with our domestic affairs.

13. Resolved, That the Governor of this State be requested to transmit duly certified copies of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States; and that they be requested to lay them before their respective bodies, and also a copy to the Governor of each and every State in the Union, with a request that they be laid before their respective Legislatures.

On motion, the foregoing resolutions were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Avery gave notice that he should ask leave to-morrow to present a report from the minority of said committee.

Mr. Hill, of Caswell, stated that he agreed neither with the majority nor minority of the committee. He asked leave to present the following resolutions, as a report for himself:

Resolved, That the repeal or modification of the fugitive slave law by the Representatives and Senators of the non-slaveholding States, or if it rendered inoperative by the constituted authorities of the Northern States, will be conclusive evidence to the people of this State, that the aforesaid States desire and intend a dissolution of the Union; and therefore under such circumstances, the people of this State will not hesitate to grant them.

Resolved, That whenever there is a repeal or modification of the fugitive slave law, so as to weaken and destroy its force and efficiency, by the Senators and Representatives of the non-slaveholding States, or whenever it is rendered inoperative by the constituted authorities of the aforesaid States, the Governor of this State is hereby authorized and required to convene the Legislature of this State at the earliest moment after the happening of either of the aforesaid events, in order to take into consideration the ways and means by which the happiness of the people of North Carolina is to be advanced, their property protected, and their liberties preserved.

Resolved, That the Governor of this State is hereby requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Governor of each State in the Union, with a request that they be submitted to the Legislatures of said States; and also that a copy be sent to our Senators and Representatives in Congress with the request that they lay them before their respective bodies.

ANTI-RAIL ROAD RESOLUTIONS.

The hour of 12 o'clock having arrived, the Speaker announced the special order of the day, being Mr. Bridges' resolutions concerning the North Carolina Rail Road, which were read as follows:

Resolved, That we, the Representatives of the freemen of the State of North Carolina, believe it inexpedient at the present time to build the North Carolina Rail Road, which was chartered by the Legislature of 1848-9.

Resolved, Therefore, That the President and Directors of the said Rail Road be requested to inform the individual Stockholders of said Rail Road thereof.

Resolved, That we believe that the majority of the freemen of the State of North Carolina are opposed to building said Rail Road at the present time.

Resolved, That the Stockholders in the said "North Carolina Rail Road Company" be respectfully requested to surrender their charter to the present General Assembly on or before the first of January next.

Mr. Pope offered the following resolutions as a substitute for the resolutions of Mr. Bridges:

Resolved, That without saying anything in regard to the propriety or impropriety of the passage of the North Carolina Rail Road Bill by the last Legislature, yet we are of opinion that circumstances have intervened since the passage of said bill, of which it is our right and our duty to speak, and which render it the true policy and interest both of the State of North Carolina and of the Stockholders, that said charter should be abandoned on both sides.

Resolved, That the present agitated and alarming condition of the United States renders it difficult, improbable, and much to be deplored, if not impossible, for North Carolina to borrow two millions of dollars on a credit of thirty years.

Resolved, That in our opinion, the advance in the value of labor for the last two years, has been such that the cost of building said road is greatly increased.

Resolved, That in our opinion, a large majority of the people of the State are so dissatisfied with said road, that not only will dissensions and distrust be likely to arise between the State and the Stockholders, but that no further aid from the State will be granted to extend the said road in length, to build branches to it, or to complete it, should the two millions of dollars be insufficient.

Resolved, That a joint select committee consisting of five from the part of the House, and four from the part of the Senate be appointed, (the Senate concurring) whose duty it shall be to propose to said Rail Road Company at their next meeting, to abandon said charter, on the terms that said Company shall return to each Stockholder the amount paid in by him or her; and that the State of North Carolina shall pay all reasonable expenditures incurred in regard to said road.

Resolved, That in adopting the foregoing resolutions, we regard ourselves in the light only of a partner to a contract, and in no other light is the proposition to be made to said Company.

Mr. Jones said, that he had voted at the last session against the bill to incorporate the North Carolina Rail Road Company. He felt it his duty to do so. He had now a very different duty to perform. The bill which he then opposed had become a law, by which the State entered into a contract with certain of her citizens. This contract he conceived he had no right to repeal, repudiate, or in any manner to impair. The stockholders had gone forward in the active performance of their part of the contract—they had surveyed the country through which the Road would pass, at a considerable expense, and the Directors will in a few days be here to locate the Road. It was now his plain duty, as a citizen and as a Representative, to lend a willing hand to the work upon which the State has entered. He cherished the honor of his native State as one of the brightest ornaments that adorn her character, and he would do no act which could call that character in question. He did not desire to discuss